

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for managing the connection of a plurality of devices which are
2 point-to-point connected by a digital interface, the method comprising:
3 (a) a second device, which establishes a point-to-point connection between an
4 arbitrary first device and another device, receiving a connection release request command
5 requesting the second device to break the point-to-point connection from the first device;
6 (b) the second device breaking the point-to-point connection in response to the
7 connection release request command:

1 2. The method of claim 1, prior to (b), further comprising (p-b-1) the second
2 device analyzing the connection release request command to determine whether the point-to-
3 point connection previously established by itself,
4 wherein (b) comprises (b') if it is determined that the point-to-point connection is a
5 point-to-point connection previously established by the second device, the second device
6 breaking the point-to-point connection.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein (b') comprises:
2 (b'-1) if it is determined that the point-to-point connection is a point-to-point
3 connection previously established by the second device, a user determining whether to break
4 the point-to-point connection by the second device;
5 (b'-2) if the user determines to break the connection in (b'-1), the second device
6 breaking the point-to-point connection established between the first device and another
7 device; and

8 (b'-3) if the user determines not to break the connection in (b'-1), the second device
9 maintaining the point-to-point connection established between the first device and another
10 device.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein (b'-1) comprises:

2 (b'-1-1) if the point-to-point connection is determined to be a point-to-point
3 connection previously established by the second device, the second device indicating whether
4 to break the point-to-point connection on a predetermined display device; and
5 (b'-1-2) the second device receiving a determination on whether to break the point-to-
6 point connection by the second device from the user.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the connection release request command
2 includes a plug type field which indicates the plug type of the first device in the presently
3 established point-to-point connection, and a plug identification field which indicates the plug
4 identifier of the first device as an operand.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the connection release request command is an
2 audio-video control command defined within an audio-video control command transaction
3 set.

1 7. The method as in any one of claims 1-6, wherein the digital interface conforms
2 to the IEEE 1394 standard.

Add A' >
Add B'